

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a polyether alcohol component, which is at least one polyether alcohol, comprising reacting at least one saturated alkylene ~~oxides~~ oxide with (1) at least one saturated OH compound, or (2) an alkylene oxide that has previously been oligomerized or polymerized with the saturated OH compound, in the presence of a double metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst, wherein [[an]] at least one antioxidant is added before the reaction, using more antioxidant than DMC catalyst (based on the mass of DMC catalyst used), wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to 500 times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of sterically hindered phenols, N,N-disubstituted hydroxylamines, sterically hindered secondary cyclic amines, diarylamines, organic phosphonic acid derivatives, N,N-substituted hydrazine compounds, oxamide compounds, benzofurans and lactones.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is used in a concentration of from 7 to 4000 ppm, based on the mass of polyether alcohol component to be prepared.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is added immediately before one of the following process steps (a) to (g): (a)

addition of the OH compound, (b) addition of the DMC catalyst, (c) milling of the DMC catalyst, (d) removal of suspension media, (e) removal of water, (f) addition of alkylene oxide, and (g) reaction of alkylene oxide with OH compound.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of double metal cyanide catalyst is from 5 to 1000 ppm, based on the mass of the polyether alcohol component to be prepared.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the polyether ~~alcohols having~~ alcohol component has a hydroxyl number of from 10 to 350 mg KOH/g ~~are obtained~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the polyether ~~alcohols having~~ alcohol component has an OH functionality of from 1 to 8 ~~are obtained~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A polyether alcohol prepared by a process according to claim 1, having an OH functionality of from 1 to 8, a hydroxyl number of from 30 to 300 mg KOH/g, and a DMC catalyst concentration of from 10 to 1000 ppm and further comprising an antioxidant in an amount that is ~~at least 1.5~~ from 2 to 500 times the mass of the DMC catalyst.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for producing polyurethanes, comprising the following steps:

- A) preparing a polyether ~~alcohols~~ alcohol component by a process according to claim 1, and
- B) reacting the polyether ~~alcohols~~ alcohol component from step A) with one or more isocyanates and/or polyisocyanates to form polyurethanes.

Claim 11 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one saturated alkylene oxide is reacted with (1) said at least one saturated OH compound.

Claim 12 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one saturated alkylene oxide is reacted with (2) said alkylene oxide that has previously been oligomerized or polymerized with the saturated OH compound.

Claim 13 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to 10 times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 14 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to $13\frac{1}{3}$ times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 15 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to $3\frac{1}{3}$ times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to $6\frac{2}{3}$ times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to claim 8, wherein the polyether alcohol component has an OH functionality of from 2 to 6.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to claim 6, wherein the amount of double metal cyanide catalyst is from 10 to 500 ppm, based on the mass of the polyether alcohol component to be prepared.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to claim 6, wherein the amount of double metal cyanide catalyst is from 25 to 150 ppm, based on the mass of the polyether alcohol component to be prepared.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is used in a concentration of from 50 to 1000 ppm, based on the mass of polyether alcohol component to be prepared.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of BHT, alpha-tocopherol, dihexadecylhydroxylamine, triphenyl phosphite and diphenyloxamide.